

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2614

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO COMNAVCOMMSTA ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, ET, US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN

REF: A. STATE 67428

B. ADDIS ABABA 3956

1. RE REF A, PARA 5. I MET WITH KAGNEW PUBLIC WORKS OFFICER AND KAGNEW LEGAL ADVISOR ON 3 APRIL 74 TO DISCUSS 9TH SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE. NEGOTIATION OF LEASE WILL REQUIRE PRIOR NOTICE TO IEG THRU JOINT COMMISSION OF INTENT TO TERMINATE LEASE ON SOME PROPERTIES NOW HELD. I PLAN TO SEND FOLLOWING LETTER TO VICE-MIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH CONCURRENCE OF DEPT.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: WITH REFERENCE TO THE AGREEMENT FOR THE UTILIZATION OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS WITHIN THE EMPIRE OF ETHIOPIA DATED MAY 22, 1953 AND THE BASIC AND EIGHT SUPPLEMENTAL LEASES PURSUANT THERETO BETWEEN THE IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I HAVE THE HONOR TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DESIRES TO TERMINATE EFFECTIVE 30 JUNE 1974 THE LEASE ON WELLS #1, #4 AND WELL C, A PORTION OF TRACT E (TO BE DEFINED IN THE NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE), AND THE SOUTHERN PORTION

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OF TRACT TX.

THIS NOTICE OF INTENT TO TERMINATE THE LEASE ON THESE SPECIFIED TRACTS AND WELLS EFFECTIVE AS OF 30 JUNE 1974 IS PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 10 OF THE BASIC LEASE BETWEEN THE IMPERIAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DATED FEBRUARY 21, 1955. A COPY OF PARAGRAPH 10 IS ATTACHED FOR CONVENIENT REFERENCE.

2. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH FIT. SOLOMON, CHAIRMAN IEG SIDE, JOINT WORKING GROUP, HE INDICATED HE WOULD ONLY SIGN FOR TRACTS A, F, AND H, AFTER AN UPDATED INVENTORY. I PLAN TO PROCEED WITH THE INVENTORY, AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT, ON 22 APRIL, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CONSULATE AND THE IEG SIDE OF THE JOINT COMMISSION. FOR MANPOWER REASONS, KAGNEW STATION WITHDREW ITS SECURITY GUARDS FROM TRACT A ON 15 DEC 73, THEREBY TURNING OVER SECURITY PROTECTION TO THE ASMARA CITY POLICE. BASED ON RUMORS OF THEFT AND ALLEGED CORRUPTION BY EX-POLICE COMMISSIONER GEN GASHAW, THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES IN THE TWO INVENTORIES. SINCE FIT. SOLOMON WILL NOT SIGN DEC 73 INVENTORY OR ACCEPT TRACT A PROPERTY ON A "WHERE-IS, AS IS" BASIS, AS I PROPOSED, ANY MISSING PROPERTY WILL HAVE TO BE WRITTEN OFF BY USG. THIS SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT SINCE PROPERTY WAS ABANDONED BY KAGNEW STATION ON 30 DECEMBER 73. IEN, WORKING INDEPENDENTLY OF FIT. SOLOMON, PLANS TO MOVE ONTO TRACT A IN NEAR FUTURE. THIS MOVE IN CONJUNCTION WITH TRANSFER OF IEN HQ FROM ADDIS TO ASMARA.

3. THE DEPT'S ASSISTANCE IS REQUESTED IN EXTENDING THE TOUR OF DUTY, IF NECESSARY, OF THE LEGAL OFFICER AND THE PUBLIC WORKS OFFICER AT KAGNEW STATION TO PROVIDE CONGEN WITH ADEQUATE SUPPORT AND COORDINATION IN TRANSFER OF REMAINING PROPERTIES TO IEG.
PERRY

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